

Serial Number: 09/734,721

Group Art Unit: 2874

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claim 28 as follows:

28. (New) A plane light source unit comprising:

a plane light pipe including upper and lower surfaces and an incidence side surface which is one of side surfaces between said upper and lower surfaces; and

a linear light pipe including a light supply surface and having a refractive index higher than that of said plane light pipe; and

at least one point light source being disposed on said linear light pipe,

wherein light incident from said at least one point light source is converted into light of a linear light source by said linear light pipe, and

wherein said linear light pipe is disposed so as to make said light supply surface face said incidence side surface of said plane light pipe, and light of said linear light source exiting from said light supply surface so as to be incident on said incidence side surface is converted into light of a plane light source by means of said plane light pipe,

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D wherein said plane light pipe includes light output means in one of said upper and lower surfaces to make light incident on said incidence side surface be outputted from the other of said upper and lower surfaces, and said linear light pipe is constituted by a rod-like member having at least six surfaces, namely, upper and lower surfaces, front and rear surfaces and left and right surfaces and further having an optical path changing means in said front surface to thereby make light incident from at least one point light source at either or both of the left and right surfaces exit from said light supply surface constituted by said rear surface, and

wherein said light output means of said plane light pipe is constituted by a repetitive structure of prismatic structures each having a combination of a short side surface and a long side surface and disposed at intervals of a pitch of from 50 μ m to 1.5 mm; each of said short side surfaces is made of a slope facing said incidence side surface at an inclination angle in a range of from 35 to 45 degrees with respect to a reference plane of a light exit surface on a side opposite to said upper or lower surface having said light output means; and each of said long side surfaces is made of a slope inclined with respect to said reference plane so that the inclination angle is in a range of from 0 exclusively to 10 degrees, so that the inclination angle difference is not larger

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than 5 degrees and the inclination angle difference between adjacent ones of said long side surfaces is not larger than 1 degree on a whole surface of said plane light pipe, and so that the projected area of the long side surfaces on said reference plane is not smaller than 8 times as large as the projected area of the short side surfaces on said reference plane.
